Amendments to the Claims:

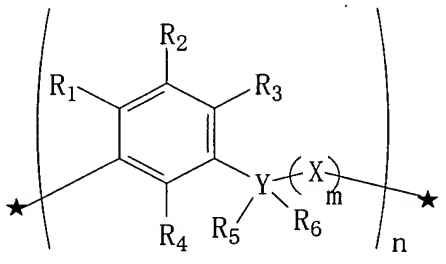
The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1–17. (Canceled)

18. (New) A method for detecting PrP in a biological sample of human or animal origin that may contain said PrP, comprising:

a) contacting the biological sample with a molecule selected from the group consisting of polyallylamine, triethylenetetraamine (TET), bis-3-aminopropylamine, spermine tetrahydrochloride, dihydrostreptomycin sesquisulfate, streptomycin, and salts of streptomycin to form PrP aggregates in a reaction mixture;

b) adding to the sample a macrocyclic ligand having general formula (I):



(I)

where:

R_1 represents a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group, an OR group or an OCOR group, R being as defined below,

R_2 represents a hydrogen atom or an R, COR, Pol or CH_2Pol group, in which Pol represents a phosphate, sulfate, amine, ammonium or carboxylic acid group, and R is as defined below,

R_3 represents a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group, an OR group or an OCOR group in which R is as defined below,

R_4 represents a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group, an OR group, an OCH_2R group or an OCOR group, in which R is as defined below,

Y is a carbon, nitrogen or sulfur atom,

R_5 and R_6 each independently are absent or represent a hydrogen atom, a CH_2 group or an R group as defined below, or else R_5 and R_6 together represent an oxygen or sulfur atom,

X represents a CH_2 group, or an oxygen or sulfur atom,

m represents an integer equal to 0 or 1,

R represents a hydrogen atom or a saturated or unsaturated, branched or unbranched, cyclic or noncyclic hydrocarbon-based chain which may or may not be substituted with a halogen group, and which carries polar or nonpolar functions,

n is an integer between 3 and 15, and

the substituents R_1 to R_5, R, X and Y and the integer m may be different in nature according to the units; and

c) detecting the presence of PrP.

19. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein (a) is performed before (b).

20. (New) The method of claim 18, further comprising adding proteinase K to the sample.

21. (New) The method of claim 18, further comprising:

adding proteinase K to the sample to digest PrP^c before (a); and

detecting the presence of PrP detects the presence of PrP^{res}.

22. (New) The method of claim 18, further comprising between (b) and (c):

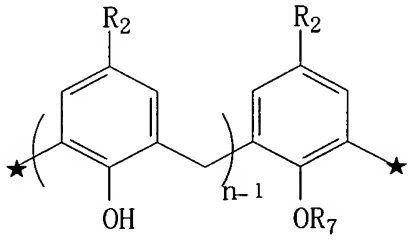
separating the PrP aggregates from the reaction mixture, and

denaturing the PrP aggregates.

23. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein detecting the presence of PrP comprises contacting the PrP with a PrP-specific binding partner for an immunoreaction between the PrP-specific binding partner and the PrP.

24. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the macrocyclic ligand is bound to a solid support.

25. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the macrocyclic ligand corresponds to general formula (Ia) below:



(Ia)

where:

n is an integer between 4 and 8,

each group R_2, taken independently, is a sulfate group or a phosphate group, and

R_7 represents a $(CH_2)_t$-$(CO)_s$-(NH_2) group or a $(CH_2)_t$-COOH group where t is an integer between 0 and 6 and s is an integer between 0 and 6.

26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein said ligand is a calixarene of formula (Ia) where:

the two R_2 groups are each a sulfate group,

n is 4, 6 or 8, and

R_7 is a hydrogen atom, a -CH_2COOH group, a -CH_2CONH_2 group, or a -$CH_2CH_2NH_2$ group.

27. (New) The method of claim 25, where:

the two R_2 groups are each a sulfate group,

n = 6, and

R_7 is $-CH_2CH_2NH_2$.

28. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the molecule of (a) is streptomycin.

29. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the molecule of (a) is a salt of streptomycin.